

AGENDA ITEM III D

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES -
NEW ORLEANS**

PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAM OPTION

M.S. IN NURSING - NURSE EDUCATOR OPTION

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans School of Nursing has long offered master-level programs in Nursing. Over its long and successful history in this area of educational endeavor, the School has revised and updated its curricula to ensure currency with professional education, accreditation, and practice. Recently, the School observed the need for master-level training for Nurse Educators, particularly in the southern part of the state which presently has no such program. This option will replace a previous curriculum in Adult Health and Illness which has been absorbed into other program options.

The Health Science Center explains the evolution of this proposed option in its proposal as follows:

The Adult Health and Illness Clinical Nurse Specialist curriculum was approved in March 1972. Since the inception of this curriculum, nursing education courses have been a component of the curriculum. This curriculum provided graduate students with the option of completing 3-9 credit hours in nursing education course work as a functional area of study. Over the years, the Adult Health and Illness Clinical Nurse Specialist curriculum was revised several times in response to community needs, changing nursing clinical specialization standards, and changing regulatory requirements by the Louisiana Board of Nursing for Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) licensure. The curriculum changes have included the addition of and revision of nursing education courses. These curriculum changes have occurred over time to the point that the School of Nursing has a distinct track that leads to the Nurse Educator specialization.

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Need

The proposal justifies need as follows:

Currently there is a national and local shortage of nursing education faculty. This shortage has continued to limit the number of qualified nursing students who can be admitted to a nursing program locally and nationally. This further compounds the

nursing workforce shortage in the health care setting. The ability to complete a master's curriculum in nursing education will increase the pool of available nursing faculty who can be employed and credentialed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing as nursing faculty. This will directly impact the number of nursing students who can be admitted and impact the nursing shortage by increasing the number of nursing faculty.

2. Curriculum

The proposal provides the following curricular design:

The Nurse Educator track consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours that can be completed as a full-time student over 3 semesters in one calendar year. This curriculum is theoretically based on adult learning theory. The course content is consistent with the National League for Nursing professional standards for the nurse educator role. Students who complete this curriculum will be academically eligible to complete the national certification examination offered by the National League for Nursing Education as a Certified Nurse Educator. The curriculum is outlined below.

Summer

N 6410 Instructional Design & Teaching Strategies - 3 credits

N 6420 Leadership Roles in Nursing Education – 3 credits

N 6370 Practice Issues in Advanced Nursing (Theory) – 2 credits

N 6371 Practice Issues in Advanced Nursing (Practicum) – 1 credit

Fall

N 6360 Curriculum: Design and Development – 3 credits

N 6374 Evidenced Based Nursing Research – 4 credits

N 6430 Business and Legal Aspects of Nursing Education – 3 credits

N 6440 Advanced Role of the Nurse Educator (Theory) – 1 credit

N 6361 Advanced Role of the Nurse Educator (Practicum) - 3 credits

Spring

N 6450 Educational Technology in Nursing -3 credits

N 6460 Evaluation in Nursing Education -3 credits

N 6470 Education Scholarship Seminar (Theory) - 1 credit

N 6471 Education Scholarship Seminar (Practicum)- 3 credits

N XXXX Elective - 3 credits

3. Students

Currently, eleven students have applied for admission into this option. The Health Science Center expects similar numbers for many years to come.

4. Faculty

Of the ten doctorally-prepared Nursing faculty, two possess specific training in Nurse Education. These two faculty will be responsible for Nurse Education courses. No additional faculty resources are necessary at this time.

5. Information/Facility/Equipment Resources

The Health Science Center indicates that all other supporting resources are sufficient to offer this program option.

6. Costs

The Health Science Center does not anticipate any new additional costs to offer this option. Resources once devoted to the Adult Health and Illness option have already been shifted to support the proposed Nurse Educator option.

STAFF SUMMARY

Given continuing needs for additional Nurse Educators to support growing and expanding RN and LPN nurse programs, there is little doubt regarding needs. The curriculum has been redesigned to meet all state licensure and CCNE accreditation requirements. Existing resources appear to be adequate to offer this option at an appropriate level of quality.

The staff recommends conditional approval, with a requirements for reporting numbers of enrollees, completers, and placement of graduates during the initial years of option operations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant conditional approval for the proposed Nurse Educator Option (CIP Code 51.1699) in the M.S. program in Nursing at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, effective immediately. Further, the Adult Health and Illness Option (CIP Code 51.1603) in the M.S. program in Nursing at LSUHSC-NO is hereby terminated, effective immediately. Beginning August 1, 2009, and annually on that date until otherwise directed, the LSUHSC-NO shall submit a progress report to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs documenting numbers of Nurse Educator option enrollees/graduates and the placement of these graduates.